

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /051 W
----- 055330

R 071505Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9165
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 04242

E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : ELAB, NI
SUBJ : NIGERIAN AIRWAYS RESUMES NORMAL SERVICE

REF : LAGOS 3944

1. NIGERIAN AIRWAYS PILOTS RETURNED TO WORK MAY 6 FOLLOWING ORDER BY INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL THAT NORMAL WORK BE RESUMED WHILE TRIBUNAL CONSIDERS CASE. DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BACK TO NORMAL. TRIBUNAL TO MEET AGAIN MAY 8 BUT NO INDICATION WHEN JUDGEMENT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH TRIBUNAL CHAIRMAN HOPES TO DISPOSE OF CASE "WITH DISPATCH".

2. PILOTS' 12-DAY STRIKE HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE BUT UNKNOWN ADVERSE EFFECT ON NATION'S ECONOMY. BOTH PASSENGER AND CARGO SERVICES WERE DISRUPTED, WITH NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR EITHER AS PETROL SHORTAGES THROUGHOUT NATION MAKE ROAD TRANSPORTATION CHAOTIC AND UNRELIABLE. NIGERIAN AIRWAYS ESTIMATES STRIKE COST DAILY REVENUE LOSS OF APPROXIMATELY N200,000 (DOLS325,000). IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME FOR SERVICE TO DISPOSE OF BACKLOG OF BOTH PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

3. COMMENT: UNTIL RESULTS OF TRIBUNAL ARE KNOWN IT IS UNCERTAIN IF PILOTS WERE ABLE TO GAIN WAGE INCREASE THEY HAD REQUESTED.
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WHILE POLICE PUBLICLY EMPHASIZED BAN ON STRIKES STILL IN EFFECT,

THEY TOOK NO ACTION TO DISCIPLINE PILOTS. EXPATRIATE PILOTS
REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO WORK DUE TO REGULATIONS WHICH REQUIRE THEY
FLY ONLY WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY NIGERIAN PILOTS AND WERE ALLEGEDLY
SENT OUT OF NIGERIA., AND THERE IS NO INDICATION HOW THEIR CASES
WILL BE HANDLED. HOWEVER, NIGERIAN PILOTS HAVE INCLUDED TREAT-
MENT OF EXPATRIATE COLLEAGUES IN THEIR LIST OF GRIEVANCES, SO
MANAGEMENT PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO RELENT ON THIS POINT IF IT
HOPES TO SETTLE DISPUTE.
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